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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mark Guy Trowbridge )  
For: AIR SPRING UPPER )  
RETAINER )  
Serial No. 10/009,695 )  
Filed: November 6, 2001 )

Confirmation No. 1290  
Docket No. DN1999119USA  
Art Unit: 3683  
Examiner: Benjamin A. Pezzlo  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on Jan 29, 2003  
(Date of Deposit)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Nancy T. Krawczyk  
(Name of Registered Representative)  
[Signature] 1-28-03  
(Signature) (Date of Signature)

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

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FEB 07 2003

GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 21, 2003, please amend the above identified patent application without prejudice as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 1 to 3 with the following amended claims 1 to 3.

not recommended  
for entry  
2/12/03  
Entry  
Not  
Approved  
AS  
Recommended  
2/12/03

1. (Twice Amended) An air spring (1) for absorbing and transmitting shock loads between parts moveable relative to one another, the air spring (1) comprising a flexible cylindrical sleeve (2) which is secured at each end to form a fluid chamber (14) therein, a piston (11), the sleeve (2) being secured at one end (6) to a retainer (8) and being secured at the opposing end (9) by the piston (11), the air spring being characterized by:

the retainer (8) having an intermediate ribbed reinforcement structure (16) to strengthen the retainer, allowing for direct mounting of the air spring (1) to one of the moveable parts, the intermediate ribbed reinforcement structure (16) of the retainer (8) comprising an outer plate (18) and an inner plate (19) which are parallel to each other, and a plurality of ribs (17 to 20) that extend between the outer plate (18) and the inner plate (19).

Sub C1  
[Signature]